

The Lieutenant Governor strongly believes that high quality affordable healthcare is the right of every Californian.

“Our healthcare system is in a death spiral, with nearly seven million Californians uninsured and millions more priced out of the system,” Lieutenant Governor Garamendi said. “It is time we create a healthcare system that provides access to high quality, affordable healthcare for every Californian, that values people over profits.”

During his first term as California’s Insurance Commissioner, Garamendi developed a plan for universal healthcare delivered in a system of managed competition. His plan relied on the government serving as a “single-collector,” and preserved a patient’s choice of doctor and hospital.

The plan was adopted by the California Legislature, but did not become law. Newspapers across



s the nation heralded the plan and it served as a basis for national healthcare reform efforts during the first Clinton Administration.

In 2005, Garamendi issued a landmark report entitled: “Priced Out: Healthcare in California,” a comprehensive review of California’s publicly and privately financed health care delivery systems. It provided a snapshot of the various pressures on the healthcare system and analyzed the many factors driving the cost of healthcare. The report emphasized mechanisms to control the unsustainable escalation in costs and included 45 specific recommendations for reforming the healthcare system. Priced Out acknowledged that the ultimate solution to the healthcare crisis was a universal healthcare system, but focused on systemic changes that could be pursued immediately.

Today, the Lieutenant Governor remains actively involved in the effort to enact a universal healthcare system in California. He has offered advice and support to legislators, labor and business leaders and others working to find solutions to California's most critical problem. He has given speeches across the state, encouraging our state's leaders to enact comprehensive reforms and not just focus on what is expedient.

Garamendi has spent more than 30 years working on issues related to healthcare. From the time he graduated UC Berkeley, when he and his wife Patti signed-up for the Peace Corps and served in Ethiopia and helped build clinics to eradicate smallpox, to his days as a state legislator, where he chaired the Senate Health Committee, authored the Rural Health Act, and wrote the laws that created nurse practitioners and California's Emergency Medical Systems act, healthcare has been the Lieutenant Governor's passion.